

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by Examiner Pardo to Applicants' representative during the telephonic interview conducted on February 26, 2007.

The purpose of the interview was to discuss the Office Action mailed October 2, 2006 and the Request for Reconsideration filed on January 3, 2007 in response thereto. Specifically, during the interview, Applicants' representative asserted that the applied references of Cherrington et al. (USP 6,070,155) and Melick et al. (USP 2001/0047283) fail to disclose or suggest the features recited in claims 1, 5, 9 and 17. However, the Examiner was not responsive Applicants' assertions, and stated that the applied references, as broadly interpreted, teach the claimed invention.

Applicants' representative then suggested further clarifying amendments to the claims to distinguish over the applied references. The Examiner stated that the proposed amendments appear to overcome the applied references. The Examiner further stated that he will conduct an updated search to determine if the amendments will place the application in condition for allowance.

The interview concluded with the Examiner indicating that he will consider Applicants' remarks and amendment, if required.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By  _____
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